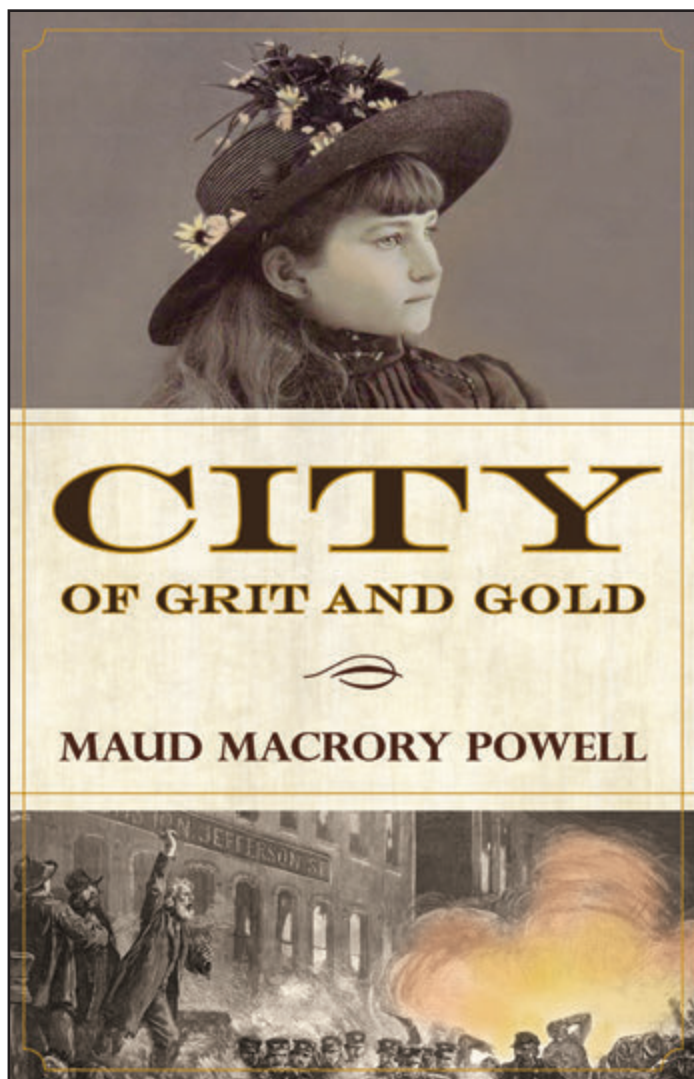


City of Grit and Gold

A Companion to the Novel



ALLIUM PRESS OF CHICAGO

Allium Press of Chicago
Forest Park, Illinois
www.alliumpress.com

Compiled by Emily Victorson

© 2017 Allium Press of Chicago
All rights reserved
This guide may be reproduced for educational purposes only.

The novel *City of Grit and Gold* is not intended to be a definitive resource on the Haymarket Affair. Instead, it provides a window into that time in Chicago's history through the experiences of a young Jewish girl.

If you would like more information about the Haymarket Affair, and Jewish life in Chicago during that time, please explore the resources provided in this guide. You will also find questions that will help you have a discussion about the book, along with a list of similar novels that you might also enjoy.



Addie's World

For images related to *City of Grit and Gold*—of Chicago in the 1880s, the Haymarket Affair, hats, sweatshops and their workers, etc.—visit our Pinterest page for this book.

<https://www.pinterest.com/alliumpress/city-of-grit-and-gold>

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the details of daily life in 1886 Chicago that you learned about from reading this book? How is Addie's world similar to yours and how is it different? If you went back in time to 1886, what would you miss from your own time?
2. How did Addie grow and change throughout the book?
3. Why did Papa and Uncle Chaim feel so differently about working conditions?
4. Draw a family tree for Addie's family and discuss their relationships. How are Addie's relationships with her various family members similar to yours? How are they different?
5. What do you think of the author's use of combined words (quiet-cold, bossy-loud) to describe the different character's voices?
6. What are some of the words in the book that were unfamiliar to you? Do you think those are words we still use today or are they more historical?
7. What kinds of things did Addie and her family do for fun? Are any of their activities like ones that you enjoy?
8. What did Addie learn about other people's lives when she went to the sweatshop and the Russian family's apartment? How did their hardships compare to the troubles her family faced? Do you think Addie thought of her own family as poor?
9. Do you think that you would have been friends with Addie if you lived in her time and place?
10. Compare the relationship between the police and protestors during the Haymarket Affair to recent events.
11. Compare the 1880s fight for the eight-hour day to today's efforts to raise the minimum wage.
12. What do you think the title *City of Grit and Gold* refers to?
13. There is a Hebrew term, *mitzvah*, which refers to an act of kindness, or charitable act. Addie takes numerous risks to help people in the book—going to the sweatshop to get the doctor for David, visiting the Russian family with Mrs. Raczynski, helping to fix Michael's dislocated arm. Can you think of a time when you had to choose between doing something for yourself and doing something to benefit another person? How did you decide what to do? How did you feel about your choice?
14. Addie's family came from Germany, and many families from other countries moved to the United States around the same time. Do you know where your family came from? How do you think you could find out? If any of your family members are recent immigrants, ask them to tell you the story of their early days in America.
15. Addie's experiences watching Dr. Goldstein at work—while he treats David and the young boy injured at the sweatshop—along with her own assistance with Michael's dislocated shoulder, inspire her to think about maybe one day becoming a doctor, herself. What experiences have you had that make you think about possible jobs you might have in the future?

Read-Alikes

Her Mother's Secret by Barbara Garland Polikoff

Fifteen-year-old Sarah, the daughter of Jewish immigrants, wants nothing more than to become an artist. But as she spreads her wings she must come to terms with the secrets that her family is only beginning to share with her. In this novel set in Chicago in the 1890s, Sarah moves between two very different worlds—the colorful immigrant neighborhood surrounding Hull House and the sophisticated, elegant World's Columbian Exposition.

Lyddie by Katherine Paterson

In 1844, Lyddie leaves her family farm in Vermont to work in the Lowell, Massachusetts textile mills.

Bread and Roses, Too by Katherine Paterson

Set during the 1912 mill workers' strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts, this novel features Italian-American Rosa, who is sent to Vermont to escape the dangerous city.

City of Orphans by Avi

Thirteen-year-old Maks and his friend Willa lead a rough life on the streets of 1893 New York, selling newspapers, running from gangs, and trying to free Maks's sister from prison.

The Detective's Assistant by Kate Hannigan

In 1859 Chicago, orphaned eleven-year-old Nell is taken in by her aunt, Kate Warne, who is a detective for the Pinkerton Detective Agency. Nell helps her solve cases, including one involving President Lincoln.

The Blue Door by Ann Rinaldi

In the third book of Rinaldi's Quilt Trilogy, Amanda leaves her South Carolina plantation to visit family in Lowell, Massachusetts. When a tragedy occurs during her travels she is forced to assume the identity of another girl and to take work in the Lowell textile mills.

The Hired Girl by Laura Amy Schlitz

In 1911, fourteen-year-old Joan escapes her hardscrabble family farm in Pennsylvania to work as the hired girl for a well-to-do Jewish family in Baltimore. She explores the world of literature, and struggles with her religious identity as a Catholic, while learning to appreciate the Jewish faith.

Is It Night or Day? by Fern Schumer Chapman

In 1938, Edith Westerfeld, a young German Jew, is sent by her parents to Chicago, where she lives with an aunt and uncle and tries to assimilate into American culture, while worrying about her parents and mourning the loss of everything she has ever known.

Meet Rebecca by Jacqueline Dembar Greene (an American Girl book)

In New York, in 1914, nine-year-old Rebecca is determined to show her family that she is old enough to light the Shabbos candles and to go to the movies. Additional titles continue the series.

All-of-a-Kind series by Sydney Taylor

The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early twentieth century.

Land of Promise by Joan Lowery Nixon

In 1902, fifteen-year-old Rose travels from Ireland to join family members in Chicago, where she must use all her resources to deal with her father's drinking and her brothers' dangerous involvement in politics.

Land of Hope by Joan Lowery Nixon

Rebekah, a fifteen-year-old Jewish immigrant arriving in New York in 1902, almost abandons her dream of getting an education when she is forced to work in a sweatshop.

Missing from Haymarket Square by Harriette Gillem Robinet

Three children in Chicago in 1886 experience the Haymarket Riot in response to exploitative working conditions.

For Further Study

Chicago in the 1880s

For maps of Chicago in the 1880s, see

<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chifire/>

Jewish Chicago

Irving Cutler, *The Jews of Chicago: From Shtetl to Suburb* (University of Illinois Press, 1996)

Irving Cutler, *Jewish Chicago: A Pictorial History* (Arcadia, 2000) This book contains many photographs.

Hyman L. Meites, ed. *History of the Jews of Chicago* (Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 1990; reprint of the 1924 original)

Walter Roth, *Avengers and Defenders: Glimpses of Chicago's Jewish Past* (Chicago Review Press, 2008)

Walter Roth, *Looking Backward: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past* (Chicago Review Press, 2005)

Jewish Chicago, 1833 to 1948 (DVD; a 2003 production of WTTW Chicago)

The Haymarket Affair

James Green, *Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America* (Pantheon, 2006)

Paul Avrich, *The Haymarket Tragedy* (Princeton University Press, 1984)

Carl Smith, *Urban Disorder and the Shape of Belief: The Great Chicago Fire, the Haymarket Bomb, and the Model Town of Pullman* (University of Chicago Press, 1995)

Michael Burgan, *The Haymarket Square Tragedy* (Compass Point Books, 2005) [a middle grade non-fiction title]

Illinois Labor History Society, *The Day Will Come...Stories Of The Haymarket Martyrs And The Men And Women Buried Alongside The Monument* (2004)

Other Resources

Chicago History Museum

<http://chicagohistory.org/>

1601 N. Clark St., Chicago

This institution is home to exhibitions on the history of Chicago, as well as a research center housing books, archives, photographs, etc.

Their website includes an online exhibit on *The Dramas of Haymarket* <http://www.chicagohistoryresources.org/dramas/> along with a the Haymarket Affair Digital Collection: <http://www.chicagohistoryresources.org/hadc>

Their website also includes a wealth of educational materials.

<https://www.chicagohistory.org/educators/?cat=classroom-resources>

Their online version of the *Encyclopedia of Chicago* includes several essays of interest:

Jews of Chicago: <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/671.html>

Haymarket and May Day: <http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/571.html>

Eight-Hour Movement: <http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/417.html>

Knights of Labor: <http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/693.html>, and

Anarchists: <http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/49.html>

Illinois Labor History Society

<http://www.illinoislaborhistory.org/>

Their website includes many useful educational resources, including a page of Haymarket resources and a teaching guide.

<http://www.illinoislaborhistory.org/haymarket-resources/>

<http://www.illinoislaborhistory.org/haymarket-teaching-guide/>

Spertus Center for Jewish Learning & Culture

<http://www.spertus.edu/>

610 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago

This center for Jewish learning and culture includes a library and exhibits, and hosts public programs.

Portions of their ongoing exhibit *Uncovered & Rediscovered: Stories of Jewish Chicago* are available online.

<http://www.spertus.edu/exhibits/uncovered>

They also have a bibliography available on Jewish Chicago.

<http://www.spertus.edu/subject-guides/chicago-jewish-history>

Tenement Museum, New York

<http://www.tenement.org/>

This museum, housed in a former tenement apartment building on Manhattan's Lower East Side, interprets the history of American immigration. Their website includes a wealth of educational material.

Library of Congress

An online exhibit titled *Chicago Anarchists on Trial: Evidence from the Haymarket Affair, 1886-1887*, which includes a wealth of educational material, can be found here:

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/haymarket/file.html>